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Scarce and rare birds in Wales 2021

WELSH BIRDS RARITIES COMMITTEE

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Editor: Jon Green

Front cover photo: Rose-coloured Starling, Tregele, Anglesey by Martin Jones.

Introduction

This is the twenty first annual report of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC), formerly the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) covering the occurrence of rare and scarce bird species in Wales in 2021. The table below summarises the number of scarce and rare birds recorded in Wales over the past ten years in terms of their historical occurrence:

	0-1 records	2-5 records	6-10 records	11-20 records	21-50 records	51-100 records	100+ records	Total
2021	1	6	8	20	15	16	62	128
2020	0	5	3	14	16	37	72	147
2019	2	5	10	7	25	15	37	101
2018	2	8	10	5	19	21	79	144
2017	1	12	7	11	37	56	20	144
2016	2	6	14	12	35	38	63	170
2015	2	5	2	9	15	13	46	92
2014	2	13	14	11	21	42	73	176
2013	2	11	5	12	14	41	45	130
2012	0	5	5	17	37	49	35	148
2011	0	4	9	10	30	26	72	151
2010	2	7	1	10	33	16	70	137

This report follows the taxonomy, names and systematic sequence of the new British Ornithologists Union (BOU) British List (2021) and includes all those records assessed by the WBRC along with those accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) (shown in italics). Descriptions of scarce species were received from the County Recorders for all Welsh Counties and occasionally directly from the observers. The report includes many digital photos and WBRC welcomes the submission of any photographic evidence, but this ideally should be accompanied by a written description. Occasionally the Panel also receives descriptions of other bird species to assess from County Recorders and Editors - these are not detailed in this report.

WBRC would like to thank everyone who submitted records, all the photographers, the County Recorders and everyone else who has helped in the assessment process.

Rare and scarce bird species (assessed by WBRC) are defined as those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually in Wales. As of 1st January 2021, the full list of species which WBRC considers is as follows:

Taiga Bean Goose	Tundra Bean Goose	American Wigeon	Green-winged Teal
Ring-necked Duck	Surf Scoter	Smew	Alpine Swift
Corn Crake	Spotted Crake	Crane	Red-necked Grebe
Stone-Curlew	Black-winged Silt	American Golden Plover	Temminck's Stint
White-rumped Sandpiper	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Pectoral Sandpiper	Red-necked Phalarope
Lesser Yellowlegs	Ring-billed Gull	Caspian Gull	White-winged Black Tern
White-billed Diver	Wilson's Petrel	Cory's Shearwater	Great Shearwater
White Stork	Glossy Ibis	Night Heron	Purple Heron
Golden Eagle	White-tailed Eagle	Montagu's Harrier	Black Kite
Rough-legged Buzzard	Bee-eater	Red-footed Falcon	Red-backed Shrike
Woodchat Shrike	Golden Oriole	Short-toed Lark	Shore Lark
Red-rumped Swallow	Greenish Warbler	Arctic Warbler	Dusky Warbler
Radde's Warbler	Pallas's Warbler	Barred Warbler	Icterine Warbler
Melodious Warbler	Marsh Warbler	Blyth's Reed Warbler	Rose-coloured Starling
Nightingale	Bluethroat	Red-flanked Bluetail	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Penduline Tit	Citrine Wagtail	Olive-backed Pipit	Serin
Common Redpoll	Arctic Redpoll	Common Rosefinch	Corn Bunting
Cirl Bunting	Ortolan Bunting	Rustic Bunting	Little Bunting

Scarce races are considered on the same basis (i.e., all those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually). However, it is acknowledged that the status, and in some cases the identification, of some races is very uncertain. The WBRC welcomes well-documented submissions of races that observers consider to be scarce in Wales. Through this process we hope to establish the occurrence of these forms, but submissions will probably in most cases require detailed descriptions, photographic evidence and in some cases biometrics or a specimen.

BBRC have requested submissions of rare races (see Kehoe, C. 2006 Racial identification and assessment in Britain, *British Birds* 99: 619-645 for extra guidance) and the WBRC will forward any claims that are considered sufficiently rare for BBRC to assess. Examples of races for which the WBRC would like to receive submissions are:

Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*
Razorbill – *torda*
Grey-headed Wagtail - *thunbergi*
Jay – *glandarius*
Bullfinch –*pyrrhula*
Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*
Little Auk – *polaris*
Treecreeper – *familaris*
Jackdaw – *monedula*
Common Guillemot – *hyperborea*
Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*
Coal Tit – *ater*
Redpolls – *islandica* / *rostrata*

The report follows the format introduced last year and that printed in “Birds of Wales” (2021). Where two records probably relate to the same bird then only one is added to the total, while if two records are only possibly of the same bird, then both are added into the totals. In some cases, the figures suggest changes in occurrence in the last twenty years, although it should be noted that some apparent declines may be due, to some extent, to a decline in the habit of observers submitting descriptions or some apparent increases in improved identification criteria and better optics or cameras. Status comments have come from Birds of Wales 2021 and the main references of rarities and scarcities in the UK come from BBRC report (Holt 2021) and British Bird’s Report on scarce migrant birds in Britain (White & Kehoe).

The names that appear after individual records are of those observers who sent in descriptions (if the finder is known then his /her name is included in italics) and are included here to show recognition of the time taken to produce a description and the observer’s commitment to the nationally recognised system of rare bird record assessment, unless there is a specific request that their name is not shown.

The Panel consists of six voting members, in 2021 they were: Steve Stansfield, Bardsey (Chairman), Richard Brown – Skokholm & Pembroke, Chris Jones – Denbigh, Simon Murray – E & W Glamorgan, Paul Roberts E. Glamorgan, Robin Sandham – Caernarfon and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green - Ceredigion. The longest serving member of the Panel retires and a new member is elected annually by the Welsh County Recorders and the Council of the Welsh Ornithological Society. Potential candidates are proposed by County Recorders, anyone who is interested should contact their County Recorder or the WBRC Secretary.

Descriptions, photos, videos and any other relevant evidence of WBRC species should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting (WBRC description forms are available from the Secretary / County Recorders and downloadable from the WOS Website), preferably via the County Recorder or alternatively direct to the **WBRC Secretary: Jon Green, Crud yr Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan. Ceredigion. SA43 2AR. (01239 811561).** The Panel are keen to receive any descriptions or photographs in electronic form at **welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk**

As of August 2021, results of circulation are posted on twitter: http://mobile.twitter.com/_wbrc

Details of records submitted, but not found acceptable or currently pended for further information are found in Appendix 1.

Systematic list of accepted records in 2021

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* *Gŵydd Lafur y Taiga*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
10	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	1	1

Breeds in Scandinavia and across Russia as far as the Pacific Ocean. The nominate subspecies winters mainly in southern Sweden and to a lesser extent in northern Germany and Poland, with small numbers in Denmark, Falkirk in Scotland and Norfolk in England. It is very rare in Wales.

Anglesey:
on fields next to Alaw Estuary 18 Feb (N. Rowsbottom, KG Croft), photo opposite by N. Rowsbottom.

As with all wildfowl, there is always the possibility of geese escaping collections and joining other goose flocks. In this case, the bird's arrival date was in line with others in the UK and therefore the panel assumed the bird to be of wild origin.
Previous Welsh records included singles at RSPB Ynyshir, Ceredigion 8 – 11 Apr 1982, Ogmore, E. Glamorgan, then Nedern, Gwent 22 Jan – 18 Feb 1996, one at Ffairfach, Carmarthen 24 Dec 1996 – 7 Jan 1997, five at St. David's, Pembrokeshire 27 Dec 1997 and one RSPB Cors Ddyga 27 Sept 2020.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris* *Gŵydd Lafur y Twndra*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
16	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	9	1	3

Breeds on tundra, from Norway eastwards through Siberia. Birds of the subspecies *A.s. rossicus* breed west of the Taymyr Peninsula and winter in eastern and central Europe. The European winter population numbers c.300,000 and during severe cold weather, birds move west into The Netherlands and eastern England, but it is very rare in Wales.

Ceredigion:
two, Tanybwlch, Aberystwyth 28 Dec until 1 Jan. 2022 (J. Turner et al), photo opposite by HA Williams.

Denbigh:
Is y coed, Wrexham, 8 – 9 Feb (N. French).

2020 Gwent:
Goldcliff, then Nedern 21 Nov until 7 May 2021 (M. Meehan et al).

As with the previous species, there is the possibility that these birds may relate to escaped geese. However, their arrival and departure dates appear to be in line with others in the UK and therefore the Panel assumed them to be of wild origin.

Previous Welsh records included singles at Cors Fochno, Ceredigion 23 Jan 1955, Dryslwyn, Carmarthen 18 – 28 Dec 1987, Kenfig, E. Glamorgan 5 Jan 2002 and Aber Ogwen, Caernarfon 1 Feb – 2 Mar 2012. Three Llyn Coron, Anglesey 13 – 19 Nov, one until 27 Nov 2011, two Shotwick, Flintshire 4 Jan 2012 and three Dolydd Hafren, Montgomery 28 Jan – 5 Feb 2012.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* *Hwyaden Dorchog*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
68	0	0	2	2	8	7	19	14	6	10

Breeds North America, winters south to Costa Rica.

Angle: male, Llyn Maelog 16 Mar – 16 Apr (KG Croft).
male, Llyn Alaw 4 -5 Oct (T. Taylor, photo M. Jones).

Brecon/ Radnor: female / immature, Dolymynach Res, Elan Valley 29 Oct – 3 Nov (K. Joynes).

Carmarthen: two males and two females, Talley / Llyn Pencarreg from December 2020, until April 2021, increasing to three males + two females 18 Mar and 14 Apr, at the latter site, one male remaining there until 25 Apr (L. Gravett et al), photograph below by L. Gravett.

Ceredigion: 1CY male, Teifi Marshes 22 Oct – 15 Nov (T. Evans et al), also seen in Pembrokeshire.

E. Glam: 1CY female Cardiff Bay / Cosmeston Lakes / Lisvane Res., from October 2020 present until 11 Apr 2021. This bird, returned to the same area, now 2CY, 26 Sept, until the end of the year (G. Stamp).
1CY, Lisvane Res, then Cardiff Bay and Cosmeston (along with the 2CY female) from 21 Nov until the end of the year (D. Westbrook, G. Stamp et al).
male, Kenfig NNR 21 - 31 Dec until the end of the year (N. Donaghy et al).

Gower: female, Dalton's Point 3 Jan (B. Stewart).

Meiri: male, Llyn Caer-Euni 23 Aug – 18 Oct 2020 (S. Gordon), then at Llyn Tegid 16 Jan 2021 (J. Dustow).

Pembroke: 1CY male, Rosebush Res., 23 Nov (B. Southern).
Male, Bicton irrigation Res, 30 Nov – 8 Dec (DJ Astins et al).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* *Mor-hwyaden yr Ewyn*

Total	Pre 1960	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
77	0	0	0	4	16	15	15	24	2	1

Breeds northern North America, winters on the Atlantic coast, south to North Carolina.

Denbigh: two males, Old Colwyn 5 Jan (R. Sandham),
male + female there 28 Mar and 2 – 15 Apr (M. Hughes e al).
presumed returning male, Pensarn 4 & 30 Oct, 30 Nov & 3 Dec (R. Sandham et al).

Pembroke: female, Broad Haven 23 Nov – 10 Dec (DJ Astins et al).

Denbigh individuals are all thought to relate to returning birds.

Smew *Mergellus albellus* *Lleian Wen*

Total 1967-2021	1967-69	1970-79	1988-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
365	23	35	75	129	67	34	0	2

Breeds central Europe, mainly a winter visitor to the UK. Added to WBRC list as of 1st Jan 2018 after many years of declining occurrence in Wales. The table above shows the number of Smew reported in the Welsh Bird reports since 1967, when the first Welsh Bird Report was published.

Ceredigion:
redhead, Teifi Marshes 1 – 2 Mar (R. Dobbins, W. James).

Denbigh:
redhead, RSPB Conwy 29 Nov – 2 Dec (per RSPB).
Photo opposite by S. Culley.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* *Gwennol Ddu'r Alpau*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
46	4	2	6	5	10	9	6	3	0	1

Breeds discontinuously around the Mediterranean, Turkey and east as far as the Himalayas.

Pembroke:
Skokholm (R. Brown et al) then Skomer 1 Apr (photo opposite, DJ Astins), presumed same individual the next day at Castlemartin 2 Apr (B & A Haycock).

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus* *Coblyn y Mor Tawel*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Breeds W Siberia, east to Kamchatka & Japan, south to Vietnam. Northern breeders winter throughout SE Asia and south to Australia.

Gower:
2CY+, Fall Bay, Rhosili, 27 June
(C. Hammond, G. Llewelyn-Bowen).
Photo opposite.

First accepted record for Wales and only the 11th for Britain, following another in Northumberland earlier in the same month.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* *Rhegen Fraith*

Total 1967 - 2021	1967-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
122	12	31	21	26	17	14	0	1

Breeds across western Europe and more abundantly across eastern Europe and temperate Asia as far as Kazakhstan and northwest China.

Ceredigion: “nocmig” recording, Cors Caron 2 Apr (M. Hughes).

Common Crane *Grus grus* *Garan*

Total	1900- 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
56	1	1	2	5	9	6	15	13	1	3

A rare visitor to Wales from Central Europe where it breeds, wintering in southern Europe around the Mediterranean and Africa. Individuals from the Somerset re-introduction scheme have been reported on many occasions in South Wales since the scheme began, not just the attempted breeding in E. Glamorgan & Gwent, with only individuals that are thought to be of wild origin are included in the table above. Totals in the table above have been corrected since the publication of Birds of Wales, as two records in Pembroke in 1978 have now been linked together as one mobile bird.

Anglesey: two, Cors Ddyga 24 – 25 Aug (per RSPB, photo T. Kearney).
Carmarthen: Pembrey, 3 Apr (B. Beck).

Both records were of unringed birds, so they are assumed to probably relate to wild individuals.

At present it is assumed that all the Somerset reintroduced birds are ringed and therefore observers are asked to check legs for rings. WBRC will only accept as wild, if the legs of Cranes are seen and no rings are observed. This needs to be included in the description. This is not an ideal situation and with more and more birds originating from the “Great Crane Project” there will come a time that WBRC will have to review its criteria of acceptance.

Stone-Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus* *Rhedwr yr Moelydd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
50	8	1	1	6	7	11	4	10	0	2

Its breeding range extends from southern and eastern England east to Central Asia and south to North Africa.

Caernarfon:
"nocmig" recording, Penrhyn Bay 31 Mar (M. Hughes).

Pembroke:
St. David's Airfield 26 – 29 Apr (I. Bullock et al).
Photo opposite R. Cox.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* *Corgwtiad Aur*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
24	0	0	0	0	2	0	9	10	2	1

Another long-distance migrant, the American Golden Plover breeds on costal tundra from extreme NE Siberia, east across N Alaska and Canada to Baffin Island. It migrates over the western Atlantic to wintering grounds in southern South America.

Pembroke: 1CY, Dale Airfield 8 – 15 Oct (A. Simms et al), photo below left by B. Southern.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* *Corgwtiad Aur y Mor Tawel*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

Breeds in northeast Russia and western Alaska and is a long-distance migrant, withering in north-east Africa, southern Asia and Australasia.

Anglesey: 2CY+, Malltraeth Cob 27 - 29 July (M & R. Jones, S. Culley et al), photo above right by M. Jones.

The only previous record was of an adult at Oakenholt, Flint, 2 – 4 Aug 1990. There have also been two records of Pacific / American Golden Plover, and adult at Oakenholt 23 July 1989 and another at Cefn Sidan, Carmarthen 26 July 1987.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* *Pibydd Cain*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
150	0	2	15	22	23	14	34	32	5	3

Breeds in eastern Siberia and northern North America, and winters in southern South America, southeast Australia and New Zealand.

Anglesey:
Llyn Alaw, 24 – 30 Sept
(D. Wright et al).

Gwent: Goldcliff 18 Sept – 3 Oct.
(B. Thomas, P. Hayward, photo C. Jones).

Pembroke:
Angle Bay 18 – 19 Sept
(B & A Haycock), photo opposite.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scalopaceus* *Giach Gylfinhir*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
22	0	0	1	1	3	3	6	7	0	1

Breeds primarily in Arctic Siberia. In North America, its range is restricted to the coastal tundra of western and northern Alaska and to the east in Canada. They winter on the coast of southern USA and northern South America.

Carmarthen:
2CY+, Penclacwydd WWT
15 - 28 Aug (B. Beck, R. Cleobury et al, per county recorder).
Photo opposite by T. Evans.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* *Giach Mawr*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
12	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0

Scarce and local breeder Norway & Sweden, which holds most of declining European population. Smaller and fragmented population breeds from Poland to Estonia. Winters sub-Saharan Africa.

1906 Meirionnydd: male shot near Dolgellau, 23 Aug (presented by CG Beale).
Previously deemed unproven, further evidence has come to light of a specimen in Birmingham Museum. Therefore, this record is now deemed acceptable.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* *Llydandroed Gyfgoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
70	12	10	9	4	5	3	12	12	2	1

Pelagic during non-breeding season. Breeds N. Europe. Rare breeder in northern Scotland and NW Ireland.

Pembroke: female off the Smalls Lighthouse, 23 June (T. Gibson).

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* *Gwylan Bonaparte*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
29	1	0	0	0	2	5	7	11	2	1

Breeds widely across N North America from W and C Alaska through Canada to James Bay. Winters locally on ice-free rivers and lakes in N USA, and S along both coasts of USA to Mexico and Caribbean.

E. Glamorgan:
2CY, Cardiff Bay, 14 – 21 Feb (P. Howlett et al), presumed same, there 18 Apr – 6 May (per County Recorder), also seen in Cheshire & Wirral, Gloucestershire & Nottinghamshire.

5CY+, Cardiff Bay, 24 Apr – 2 May (A. Bevan, P. Bristow, GN Smith et al), presumed same as 2019 individual.

Pembroke:4CY+, Gann, 15 Nov (DJ Astins, LH Morgan), presumed same as 2020 individual, photo opposite DJ Astins.

Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoides kumlieni* *Gwylan Kumlien*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
13	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	7	1	1

It breeds in Arctic Canada and winters on the east coast of North America from Labrador to New England, and also around the Great Lakes.

E. Glamorgan:
2CY, Ogmore estuary 4 Jan – 17 Feb (NP Roberts et al), photo opposite by NP Roberts.

Admittedly this is at the paler end of the spectrum, but it fits WBRC criteria, as in there is contrast between the outer and inner primaries, due to the outer primaries having darker outer webs and paler inner webs.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* *Gwylan Caspia*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5	4

Resident in much of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. It also seasonally breeds from the Black Sea, across the north of the Caspian Sea to eastern Kazakhstan, and on the central Asian steppes. More recently the species appears to be spreading westwards in Europe and now breeds in small numbers in The Netherlands. Wintering grounds include the coast of south-west Asia (breeders from the steppes), the north-west coast of Africa, and around the Arabian Peninsula up to north-west India.

E. Glamorgan:
1CY, Cardiff Bay from 28 Nov 2020 until – 3 Mar 2021 (G. Stamp et al). Presumed same, now 2CY, 23 – 28 Nov (G. Stamp et al).

2CY, Cardiff Bay 1 Jan (G. Stamp, P. Bristow).

Gwent:
1CY Llandegfedd Res., 2 Sept (C. Constance).

Pembroke:
1CY Fishguard Harbour, Lower Town 1 Nov (C. Hurford).
Adult X290, Gann 16 Nov (DJ Astins), then at Frainslake, Castlemartin 19 Dec (photo B & A. Haycock).
Adult, Gann 30 Nov, 12, 14 & 16 Dec (DJ Astins), photo opposite.

The adult at the Gann Estuary, colour-ringed individual (X290), was ringed in Germany and had previously been seen at Llanrhystud, Ceredigion in March 2017 and Nevern Estuary, Pembroke in July 2017.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* *Mor-wennol Gawraidd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
13	0	0	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	1

This global seabird breeds on five continents, but in Europe is limited to the north coast of the Black Sea and the coasts of the northern Baltic Sea. The latter population winters in West Africa, as far south as the Gulf of Guinea. A total of 331 were recorded in Britain up to the end of 2020, about five a year on average over the last 30 years (Holt et al. 2021). There have been just 12 in Wales, all between 11 April and 6 August, except for one record off Bardsey in October.

Carmarthen:
3CY, Penclacwydd WWT, 24 – 29 June (G. Harper et al), photo opposite.
Also seen Lincolnshire, Staffordshire & Yorkshire.

This individual had been ringed as a nestling (colour ring Yellow LJJ, ring number CT187655) at Hamina, Kymenlaako, Kymi, Finland on 27 June 2019 and had not been recorded since, until it's appearance at Penclacwydd.

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans* *Morwennol Gain*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

95% of this pacific species is restricted to Isla Rasa in the Gulf of California, although a few other islands in the USA and Mexico are used. Outside the breeding season birds disperse along the Pacific coast as far south as Chile.

Anglesey:
3CY, Cemlyn, 4 – 30 July (M. Sutton et al), also seen Cumbria, Lancashire & North Merseyside.
Photo on twitter by N. Dargue.

The only previous record was of an adult at Porthmadog, Meirionnydd / Caernarfon 23 – 26 July 2002.

Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus* *Mor-wennol Fraith*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

This tern breeds on islands around the Equator in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic oceans, including the Caribbean. Like the similar Bridled Tern, it is pelagic outside the breeding season, ranging across tropical seas and oceans. There have been 22 records in Britain to the end of 2019, half of them before 1950.

2020 Anglesey: Cemlyn, 13 June (I. Rothwell-Jones, D. Stantey, D. Wilde).
Photos below I. Rothwell-Jones.

This individual is presumed the same as the one seen in various North Sea locations in 2018 & 2019 and then in 2020 after visiting Cemlyn, at Minsmere, Suffolk 8 July, Maidenhead Bay, Ayrshire 23 July and finally at Howick, Northumberland 28 – 29 July. The previous Welsh records came from Barmouth, Meirionnydd 1909 and Skerries & Cemlyn on Anglesey and later seen passing Strumble Head, Pembrokeshire in 2005.

Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica* *Trochydd y Mor Tawel*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Breeds across Canada and Alaska and in northeast Siberia and winters in the Pacific Ocean, as far south as northern Mexico.

Gower: 1CY, Eglwys Nunydd Res, 11 Dec until 25 Feb 2022 (Rob Jones et al), photo below by Rob Jones.

Only previous record was of a 2CY at Llys y fran Res, Pembroke 16 Jan – 11 Feb 2008, returning there 25-26 Feb 2009.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii* *Trochydd Pigwyn*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
4	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1

Breeds in northern Canada and northern Russia, mostly east of the Ural Mountains. It winters in the Pacific and off the coasts of Greenland and Fennoscandia. Over 650 have been recorded in Britain, with increased occurrence since 2000.

Pembroke: summer plumaged adult, Strumble Head, 1 Nov (C. Hurford).

Only three previous records, at: Holyhead Harbour, Anglesey 24 Feb – 19 May 1991 and see passing Strumble Head 27 Sept 1999 and 1 Sept 2011.

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* *Pedtryn Drycin Wilson*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
14	0	0	0	0	2	7	4	0	0	1

Regarded as one of the world's most abundant seabirds, with a population of 4 – 10 million breeding pairs. It breeds on islands in the southern hemisphere. Outside the breeding season it occurs in all of the world's oceans.

Pembroke:
Celtic Deep pelagic, 29 Aug (Rob Jones, S. Murray et al), photos opposite by Rob Jones.

All the previous Welsh records have been from Pembroke, either off Strumble Head or at sea in the Celtic Deep.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis* *Aderyn Drycin Cory*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
119	0	0	1	3	29	41	25	17	2	1

Breeds on Berlengas Islands (West Portugal) west to the Azores and south to the Canary Islands. It is pelagic outside the breeding season, most often seen off British and Irish coasts in late summer. Cory's Shearwaters are scarce passage migrants off the Welsh coast. The similar Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* which breeds on Mediterranean Islands and Cape Verde Shearwater *Calonectris edwardsii* from the Cape Verde Islands have never been recorded in Wales.

Pembroke: Strumble Head 8 Aug (P & S. Murray et al).

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis* *Aderyn Drycin Mawr*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
293	0	1	3	5	51	111	61	57	1	3

Late summer / autumn passage migrant that breeds in the south Atlantic. Pelagic during non-breeding season, completes clockwise migration around Atlantic Ocean occurring in British and Irish waters mainly during late summer and early autumn.

Pembroke:

Celtic Deep pelagic, 3 Aug (R. Crossen et al, photo opposite).

Two, Strumble Head 6 Aug (L. Gravett et al).

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* *Ciconia Gwyn*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
75	3	0	0	12	14	8	12	25	1	0

Migrant in warmer boreal to warm temperate zones, Russia, China and central Europe.

As with Crane, with so many re-introduced individuals present in the UK, it is almost impossible to determine whether individuals are genuine wild or not. WBRC has decided, for the time being, that unringed individuals are probably wild birds, while ringed ones are not. There were no records received of presumed wild birds this year.

A colour-ringed individual from Knepp reintroduction scheme:

Montgomery:
one reported from a rooftop in Llanidloes 6 Mar.

Carmarthen:
presumed same as the above individual was seen flying up the Tywi Valley, Llandeio 8 Mar (J. Friese), relocated to Manordeilo (A. Teilo) until 16 Mar, photo opposite by L. Gravett.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* *Crymanbig Ddu*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
149	12	1	0	1	1	1	27	86	15	5

Migrant from warm temperate and tropical zones, Greece, Turkey, North Africa and the Middle East. Increasing records in UK linked with recent range expansion northwards. Added to WBRC list as of January 2013.

Gwent: two, Goldcliff, Newport Wetlands from 2020 until 22 Jan 2021, with one remaining until 1 Mar.

Carmarthen: two Penclacwydd WWT 26 Aug, with one remaining until 30 Aug (E. O'Connor).

Gower: Bwlchmynydd, Upper Loughor 30 Aug (A. Hyde), presumed one of the above.

Two, over Gowerton 15 Dec (J. Banfi), also seen in January 2022.

Pembroke: Skomer 11 Oct (L. Newman) presumed same Gann 28 & 30 Oct (DJ Astins et al).

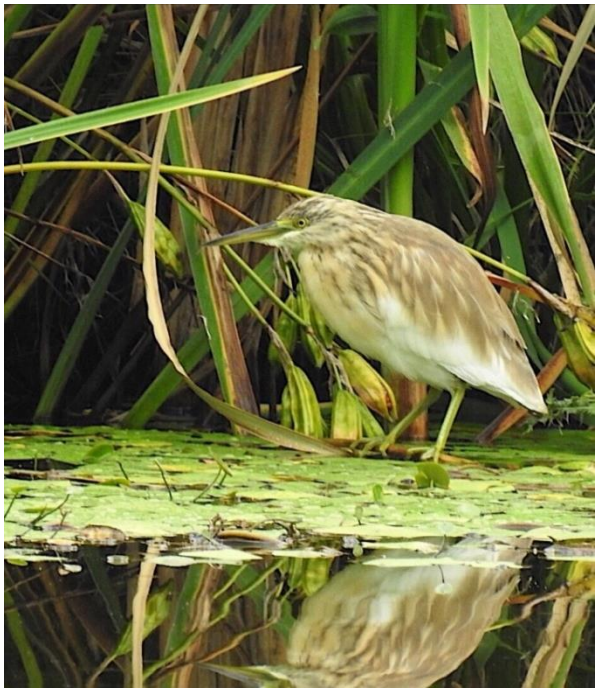
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* *Creyr Melyn*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
14	3	1	0	0	1	1	1	5	0	2

Occurs locally across southern Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. It winters in Africa south of the Sahara, where it joins a resident population.

Ceredigion: 2CY+, RSPB Ynyshir 13 – 14 May (T. Kistruck et al, per County Recorder).
Flint: 1CY+, Big Pool Wood, Talacre, 15 - 26 Sept (A. Humphreys-Jones et al).

These two were the only accepted individuals recorded in the UK this year.



Squacco Herons, above Ynyshir by T. Kistruck,

Right at Talacre from twitter by P. Baker.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* *Barcud du*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
27	0	0	0	3	3	3	5	10	1	2

Breeds throughout continental Europe, most in Spain, France and Germany, with smaller populations in all, except maritime NW Europe and Scandinavia. To E, breeds European Russia to Kazakhstan and C Siberia. Nominate race winters Africa and NW Indian subcontinent. Other races are resident or dispersive in sub-Saharan Africa, Indian subcontinent, E and SE Asia and Australia.

Anglesey: South Stack, 26 Apr (E. Betteridge), photo below left.
Pembroke: juv. over Skomer, 23 Aug (E. Betteridge), photo below right.

Remarkably both birds were seen and photographed by the same lucky observer but from two different islands!

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* Gwybedog Gwenyn

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
81	5	3	1	8	11	5	14	20	13	1

Breeds in southern Europe, northwest Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. European birds winter in the Sahel zone in West Africa. Another population is resident in southern Africa (HBW). The species is a scarce migrant visitor to Britain, usually as a spring overshoot, although some have occasionally remained to breed in England. The number of records in Britain has increased, with the annual mean in 2010-18, 73 records, almost double that of 1990-99 (White and Kehoe 2020). Sightings in Wales have mirrored this trend, although the species remains a scarce visitor here.

Pembroke:

Porth Clais, 7 June (C. Kirner), photo opposite.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* *Cigydd Cefngoch*

Total 1967-2021	1967-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-2019	2020	2021
166	14	23	22	33	37	29	6	2

Breeds throughout most of mainland Europe. Table above shows data from 1967 onwards, with those from 1991 assessed by WBRC.

Caernarfon:

1CY, Bwlchtocyn, Pwllheli 21 Nov (Rhys Jones),

photo opposite.

Ceredigion:

1CY Llanon, 30 Oct (M. Hughes, HA Williams et al).

Daurian / Turkestan Shrike *Lanius isabellinus / phoenicuroides* *Cigydd Dawria / Tyrcestan*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
9	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	0	1

Daurian Shrike breeds in northern China and southern Russia and winters in eastern Africa, the Sahel zone and Arabia and northern India. BBRC only accepts adults as Daurian or Turkestan, all other claims are deemed as Daurian / Turkestan.

Pembroke:

1CY, Marloes Sands, 28 Nov

(D. Watson et al).

Photo opposite by D. Watson.

Of the previous eight records six have been in October and two in November. The Marloes bird was the third record for Pembroke. The other six Welsh records came from Anglesey (two), Caernarfon (three) and E. Glamorgan.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* *Cigydd Pengoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
131	6	11	24	12	12	13	14	32	3	4

Breeds from France and northwest Africa east to Ukraine and southern Iran. Winters in Africa south of the Sahara.

Caernarfon:
Bardsey 14 – 15 May (S. Hughes et al)., photo opposite by S. Hughes.

Carmarthen:
Mynydd Ystyfflau-carn, 4 June (N. Lewis).

Ceredigion:
Cors Caron 2 – 3 June (HA Williams).

Pembroke:
Skomer, 1 June (L. Morgan).

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* *Cigydd Glas*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
11	0	0	3	2	2	2	0	1	0	1

Breeds in south-eastern Europe and east to Central Asia, with smaller populations in the northern Mediterranean, as far west as southern France and northeast Spain.

Pembroke:

adult, Skomer, 31 May

(L. Newman et al).

Photo opposite.

This was the third record for Skomer and the fifth for Pembroke. The remaining six Welsh records came from Anglesey, Flint, Montgomery, Carmarthen and Caernarfon (two).

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus* *Fireo Llygatgoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
9	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	2

Trans-Atlantic vagrant breeds from Canada south through the central and eastern USA and winters in northern South America.

Caernarfon:
1CY, Bardsey 2 – 4 Oct (E. Betteridge et al), photo opposite.

1CY, Porth Meudwy 6 – 10 Oct
(A & A Goodwin et al).

Of the previous seven records, two have been on both Bardsey and Skokhom, Pembroke, with singles at Aberdaron September 1975, Porth Clais, Pembroke October 1995 and South Stack, Anglesey October 2001.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* *Euryn*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
221	22	4	10	37	27	51	43	25	1	1

Scarce visitor, usually as spring overshoot, from Mediterranean Europe. Breeds NW Africa throughout Europe from Mediterranean north to southern Sweden & southern Finland, Russia, Turkey & Caucasus to NW Iran. Winters equatorial & southern Africa. A scarce summer visitor to Wales, recorded in all counties and particularly in Pembrokeshire. Most of the records fall in May and June as is to be expected with a species overshooting its continental breeding areas.

Pembroke: male, St. David's Airfield, 29 May (J. Williams).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* *Jac y do*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	1	2

Individuals showing features of the Nordic form *C. m. monedula*, include:
Caernarfon: Llandudno, 21 Feb (M. Hughes).
Gower: Margam Park, 19 Dec (R. Jones).

The panel is not certain whether these records relate to genuine Scandinavian birds or whether the plumage characteristics they show are within normal variation for British Jackdaws. Therefore, the panel requests as many photographed records as possible to try to solve this dilemma.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* *Gwennol Dingoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
34	0	0	0	3	7	4	6	12	1	1

Breeds Iberia, southern France and northwest Africa; Balkans east to Japan and south to Sri Lanka; central Africa. The Western Palearctic population winters in Africa, south of the Sahara. A very rare migrant to Wales with 30 accepted records. Within the UK as a whole, numbers of accepted records increased steadily during the 20th Century, particularly since 2000, resulting in this species dropping from the BBRC's list onto the WBRC's.

Gwent: Goldcliff 23 May (J. Allen, J. O'Sullivan).

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* *Telor Tywyll*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
8	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	1	1

This very rare vagrant to Wales breeds in taiga bogs and wet meadows in central and eastern Siberia, south to central China, and winters in southeast Asia. The number of records elsewhere in Britain has increased markedly, from an average of 13 each year in 1990-99 to 27 in 2010-18, bringing the total to 590 (White and Kehoe 2020).

Flint: Talacre, 13 – 15 Nov (D. Johnson et al).

Second county record for Flint, a previous individual at nearby Point of Ayr November 1997.

Of the other seven Welsh records, two were on Bardsey and singles at Strumble Head & Porth Clais, Pembroke, Rhostryfan, Caernarfon and at Wylfa, Anglesey.

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* *Telor Bonelli y Gorllewin*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
16	1	2	2	0	1	0	2	7	0	1

Breeds in western Europe as far east as Austria and as far north as France / Belgium. Winters along the southern edge of the Sahara.

Pembroke:
2CY+, trapped & ringed,
Skokholm 2 June
(R. Brown, H. Driver, G. Eagle).
Photo opposite R. Brown.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* *Telor y Cyrs Blyth*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
13	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	3	1

Breeds in eastern Europe (mainly south Finland, Baltic states, Belarus) east to northern Kazakhstan, northwest Mongolia and central Russia (upper R Lena and southeast Altai), also Tien Shan south to probably northern Afghanistan and northeast Iran. Winters in south and eastern Indian Subcontinent and Myanmar.

Pembroke:
trapped & ringed, Skokholm 9 Oct
(R. Dobbins et al).
Photo opposite R. Brown.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* *Telor y Gwerni*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
30	0	1	0	2	6	4	6	9	1	1

A small population breeds in south and east England however the main breeding grounds are in Eastern Europe. A rare vagrant to Wales with 30 accepted records. All records are assessed by WBRC. Within the UK numbers of records appear to be stable or showing a slight decline, with annual means declining from 53 in the 1990s to 44 in the 2010s.

Caernarfon: singing, Bardsey, 1 June (S. Cossey et al).

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* *Telor Davi*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
10	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	4	0	1

Breeds locally across Central Asia and Europe, including very small numbers in Wales. One pair bred in 2019 at Cors Ddyga, Anglesey.

Carmarthen:
singing male, WWT Penclacwydd 6 – 29 May
(E. Sherwell et al).

First county record.
Photo opposite on twitter by B. Lucking.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* *Telor Pêr*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
231	0	16	51	30	39	27	26	33	4	5

Breeds in open deciduous woodland and scrubby habitats in northwest Africa and western Europe and winters in Africa, south of the Sahara (HBW). In Britain it occurs more frequently in the south and west and is a scarce migrant to Wales, with almost twice as many records as Icterine Warbler, which tends to occur farther east and north.

Anglesey: Soldier's Point, 25 Aug (C. & D. Buttle).

Caernarfon: Porth Meudwy 15 Aug (NJ & VE Phillips).

Two, Bardsey 23 Aug (SD Stansfield).

Pembroke: Grassholm, 24 Aug (L. Morgan, DJ Astins).

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* *Telor Aur*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
126	0	2	20	14	26	30	16	12	3	3

This species replaces Melodious Warbler in northern and eastern Europe, and consequently occurs less frequently in Wales. It breeds in woodland from northeast France to western Siberia and north to Fennoscandia and winters in Africa south of the Sahara. It is a scarce migrant to Wales, where records increased during the second half of the 20th Century but have fallen since a peak in the 1990s. These trends mirror those for the rest of Britain, with an annual mean of 139 during 1990-99 but 78 in 2010-18 (White and Kehoe 2020).

Caernarfon:
Bardsey, 1 June (S. Prettyman), photo opposite.
Bardsey, 1 Sept (SD Stansfield).

Pembroke:
Skomer, 28 Aug (E. Betteridge).

Western Subalpine Warbler *Curruca iberiae* *Telor Brongoch y Gorllewin*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1

Race *iberiae* breeds Iberian Peninsula, S France and NW Italy, race *inornata* breeds Morocco, N. Algeria, Tunisia & NW Libya. Winters Sahel from Senegal to Sudan.

Pembroke: 2CY+ female, trapped & ringed, Skokholm 18 July (R. Brown, L. Marriner). Photo below by R. Brown.

A worn, first-summer female, found from the Wheelhouse Kitchen window early in the afternoon of 18th July, was soon trapped in the Wheelhouse Mist Net. In the hand examination revealed it to have a wrinkled brood patch along with the warm underpart tones and neat white tips to the second-outermost tail feathers typical of Western Subalpine Warbler. A wing length of 57mm was 1mm less than the DNA confirmed Western bird present on 8th May last year and 6mm less than the DNA confirmed Eastern Subalpine Warbler ringed in May 2021. The mitochondrial DNA analysis of a dropped feather confirmed the identification as that of a monotypic Western Subalpine Warbler, this the second for Skokholm and third for Pembroke. Previous Welsh records include individuals on Bardsey 18 Apr 2009 & 29 Apr 2011 and at Uwchmynydd, 19 – 30 Apr 2013, all Caernarfon, 2CY female Skomer, Pembroke, 20th May 2018 and 2CY female Skokholm 8 May 2020.

Eastern Subalpine Warbler *Curruca cantillans* *Telor Brongoch Dwyrain*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020
20	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	12	2

There are two subspecies, the nominate form that breeds in Sicily and southern Italy, and *C.c. albistriata* that breeds in the very northeast of Italy, the Balkans and western Turkey. Both are presumed to winter in the eastern part of the Sahel. There were 111 records in Britain up to end of 2020 (Holt *et al.* 2021).

Anglesey:
2CY+ male, Mynachdy, Carmel Head, 1 June (M. Sutton), photo opposite. First county record.

Pembroke:
2CY female, trapped & ringed Skokholm 31 May (R. Brown, G. Eagle). DNA taken for analysis, photo below along with details of its identification by R. Brown.

A silent, first-summer female found at the Well on the morning of 31 May was soon walked into the Well Heligoland. The second-outermost rectrices exhibited restricted whitish tips, the pale bleeding very quickly into dark inner webs rather than forming either the white lozenges typical of Eastern Subalpine Warbler or the neat white tips typical of Western Subalpine Warbler (see above photograph for an example of the latter). The mitochondrial DNA analysis of a dropped feather revealed the bird to be a *C. c. albistriata*, an Eastern Subalpine Warbler of the subspecies which breeds between northeast Italy and Turkey. Although Western Subalpine Warblers exhibiting Eastern Subalpine Warbler-type tail patterns have been found elsewhere, this was the first example of an Eastern Subalpine Warbler exhibiting a more Western Subalpine Warbler-type tail to be encountered by the team at the University of Aberdeen (which led to the resequencing of the sample to double-check (Collinson, *pers. comm.*)). Based on current knowledge this bird would have been impossible to identify in the field, indeed the tail pattern would appear more reminiscent of Western birds, however the grey plumage tones (with little warmth to the fringes of the retained greater coverts) and the pale underparts were perhaps clues as to its identification. A wing length of 63mm was 6mm longer than the Western Subalpine Warbler trapped in July and matched the wing length of one of the two male Eastern Subalpine Warbler ringed in 2016 (the other had a 64mm wing chord).

Of the 19 Welsh records, all were in spring, between 13 April and 29 May. Of these, 11 were on Bardsey, and there have been four on Skokholm, two on Skomer and one on Ramsey. The only Welsh mainland record was at St David's Head, Pembroke on 13 April 2014.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* *Drudwen Wridog*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
173	13	1	3	5	4	17	43	47	15	25

Breeds from Hungary and Balkans east to Kazakhstan and southern Iran. Occasionally irrupts west in summer. Winters in the Indian region.

Angle: Adult Bull Bay, 6 Sept – 1 Oct 2020 (S. Hart, photo S. Culley), then presumed same at Amlwch Port 14 Nov until 22 Feb 2021 (J. Dyda).
Adult, Holyhead, 2 June (per BJ Owen).
Adult, Cemaes Bay, 3 & 4 June (L. Bray, T. White).
Adult, Cemlyn 5 June (M. Sutton).
Adult, Moelfre, 5 June (M. Bailey).
Adult, Tregele, 11 - 14 June (T & K White, photo M. Jones).
Adult, Valley, 12 & 14 June (D. Parsons).
Juv. Amlwch, 9 – 12 Sept (M. Caygill et al), photo below left
Carmarthen: adult, Delta Lakes, Llanelli, 13 June (C. Brewer).
Caernarfon: Adult, Morfa Nefyn – 10 June (images on twitter).
Adult, Rhos on sea, 28 June – 3 July (photo P. Jones).
Adult, Bardsey 7 June (S. Prettyman).
Two adult females, Bardsey 10 June (SD Stansfield).
Juv. Morfa Nefyn 20 – 22 Nov (images on twitter).
Llandudno Junction, for several days from 16 Sept (P. Legge, photo R. Sandham, D. Edwards).
Ceredigion: adult, Aberystwyth, 9 – 10 June (P. Baber, P. Buckle).
Denbigh: adult, Rhyl 6 June (images on twitter).
E. Glamorgan: Adult, Lavernock, 2 June (GN Smith).
Adult, Llantwit Major, 22 June (per county recorder).
Gwent: adult, St. Brides, 18 June (H. Frost), photo below right.
Adult, Sudbrook, 21 June (photo H. Gregory).
Montgomery: adult, Llandyssil, 31 July – 1 Aug (photo N. Randall-Smith).
Pembroke: Skokholm 5 Aug (RD Brown).
1CY, Haverfordwest 1 – 6 Dec (L. Childs).
Adult, Hasguard Cross, 5 – 12 June (C. Francis).

2021 was a bumper year for this species, with a minimum of 24 accepted records, including at least seven on Anglesey (with several unconfirmed reports, possibly up to a dozen different birds involved) and the first county record for Montgomery. Many of the records received were of individuals photographed in gardens by interested houseowners and shows the usefulness of social media in tracking the occurrence of such unusual and often colourful species.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* *Eos*

Total 1967-2021	1967-69	1970-79	1988-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
125	21	39	21	26	8	8	1	1

The Nightingale breeds in a broad band across much of central and western Europe, south to northwest Africa, and east in a scattered distribution to northwest China. In Britain it is now restricted to southern and eastern England, south of a line from the Severn to the Humber. It occupies a variety of habitats, including scrub and open woodland with thickets and dense patches of vegetation. Nightingales are migratory, wintering in tropical Africa south of the Sahara.
The Nightingale is now recorded as a scarce migrant in Wales, though there have been no ringing recoveries to indicate the likely origins of passage birds. Since 1967 at least 124 individuals, including a few breeding birds, have been recorded in Wales.

Pembroke: Skokholm 30 Apr (G. Eagle), photo opposite.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* *Cynffonlas Ystlysgoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	1

Breeding range extends through the cool temperate forests of Russia to northern Japan and northeast China, with a small but expanding population in Fennoscandia.

Pembroke: immature / female, trapped & ringed Skokholm 11 Oct (J. Henserson et al), photo below left.

Previous Welsh records came from Bardsey, Caernarfon October 2007 & 2015, Skomer, Pembroke October 2010, Great Orme, Caernarfon October 2016 and Wern Ddu, Caerphilly, E. Glamorgan January – February 2017.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* *Gwybedog Brongoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
180	2	9	24	29	34	21	24	34	2	1

Breeds from southern Sweden south to Austria and Bulgaria eastwards across Siberia. Winters in Pakistan, India and southeast Asia.

Caernarfon: male, Bardsey 9 Oct (E. Betteridge et al), photo above right by SD Stansfield.

Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergia* *Siglen Benlwyd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
18	0	0	0	3	5	5	1	3	0	1

Breeds in Fennoscandia, European Russia and northwest Siberia and winters in sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia.

Pembroke:
male, Skomer 21 – 22 May
(F. Blockley et al), photo opposite.

Buff-bellied Pipit *Anus rubescens* *Corhedydd Melynllwyd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

Breeds in the high Arctic of north and northwest Canada and Alaska to western Greenland.

Gower: 1CY+, Landimore, Weobley, 8 - 12 Oct (E. Hunter et al), photos below by E. Hunter.

Only previous Welsh record was on Bardsey, Caernarfon 29 – 30 Sept 2019.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* *Llinos Goch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
172	2	0	3	7	23	41	41	44	4	7

Breeds central Europe, spring and autumn migrant to UK. Rare passage migrant to Wales with a total of 165 individuals recorded in the Principality. There has been a large increase in accepted records over the past fifty years, mirroring an increase in UK records, but numbers appear to be stable for the last thirty years (annual mean of around 150 records a year over the last three decades in the UK).

Anglesey:
2CY, Cemlyn 2 June (M. Sutton).
Holyhead, 3 June (A. Clarke).

Caernarfon:
Bardsey, 2 June (SD Stansfield).
Immature / female, Porth Meudwy,
10 – 11 Sept (NJ & VE Phillips, RI Thorpe).

Pembroke:
Ramsey, 5 June (N. Stephens).

Male, Skokholm, 29 May (R. Dobbins,
R. Brown), photo opposite R. Brown.

Immature / female, Skokholm 17 Sept
(R. Brown).

Serin *Serinus serinus* *Llinos Frech*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
35	4	2	1	6	3	5	10	3	0	1

Resident in southern Europe and France, and in the breeding season extends its range into the rest of continental Europe west of Russia.

Pembroke:
female, Gann, 16 Nov (DJ Astins),
photo opposite.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis* *Bras y Eira*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	1

The nominate subspecies is widespread: Nearctic birds winter across North America, while the Fennoscandian population migrates south as far as central and eastern Europe in winter, with some wintering on the east coast of Britain. There have been seven records of a total of 12 individuals in Wales. The WBRC believes that this subspecies occurs frequently in Wales, but it is rarely documented owing to the difficulty of identification in the field.

Pembroke:
St. David's Head, 17 Jan
(S. Parmor, G. Morgan),
photo G. Morgan.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* *Bras yr Yd*

Welsh Total 2004-2020	1967-69	1970-79	1988-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
25	-	-	-	-	4	2	19	0

The Corn Bunting, the largest European bunting, is resident or a summer visitor across Europe except Scandinavia, in north Africa and parts of the Middle East.

Denbigh: 19 were present at Bettisfield 11 Dec 2020, with individuals remaining until April 2021 at least, with six seen on 8 Apr (J. Andrews).

Little Bunting *Emeriza pusilla* *Bras Bychan*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
37	0	3	2	0	7	4	10	7	2	2

The Little Bunting has a broadly similar breeding range to that of Rustic Bunting, although slightly farther north through Fennoscandia and across Russia to the Pacific coast (HBW). It winters in southern China and adjacent territories. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of records in Britain over the last 40 years, with annual means of 24 in the 1980s increasing to 74 in the 2010s (White and Kehoe 2020). There was a slight southerly shift in its range, in Fennoscandia, during this time period which may explain part of the increase in numbers being recorded in the UK. This bird is a rare migrant to Wales, with a slight increase in the number of records since the 1980s.

Brecon: Libanus, 8 Feb – 26 Mar (MJ Waldron), photo below left.
Gower: trapped and ringed, West Cliff, Southgate, 8 Nov (R. Dann), photo below right.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*

Bras Penddu

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
33	0	0	5	0	5	9	8	5	0	1

Breeds in south-eastern Europe, Turkey and parts of the Middle East, and in winter migrates to central west India.

Carmarthen:
2CY+, Upper Brynamman 26 May
(L, Barrett et al per county recorder).
Photo opposite on twitter
by P. Stephens.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis*

Bras Gyddfwyn

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0

The White-throated Sparrow breeds across much of Canada, excluding the far north and west, and spends the winter in the southern USA (HBW). There were 50 records of this extremely rare trans-Atlantic vagrant in Britain to 2019 (Holt et al. 2019), with an average of one a year over the last 30 years.

2020 Ceredigion:
Cwrtnewydd, 24 June
(photo R. Jones, L. Gravett, per county recorder).

The two previous Welsh records were on Bardsey, Caernarfon, 1CY 15 Oct – 7 Nov 1970 and 11 June 2010.

REINTRODUCTIONS

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* *Eryr Mor*

Total	1818 - 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020	2021
22+	17+	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1

Widely distributed across northern Europe and Asia, from Greenland to the Pacific Ocean. European strongholds are Norway and Russia. Over 120 pairs breeding in Scotland following the reintroduction programme there. There has been a more recent project in the Isle of Wight, where released individuals carry tracking devices.

Anglesey: one Fedw Fawr, 13 June, before heading out to sea (Mr. & Mrs. D. Thorpe, per County Recorder).

There have only been four recent records, three presumably relating to visiting birds from Scotland: Skomer, Pembroke 10 & 11 Nov 1993, Cors Caron, Ceredigion 12 Nov 1997 and at Dolwyddelan, Caernarfon 28 Mar 2008; and a tagged bird from the Isle of Wight over Ystrad Mynach then Rudy, E. Glamorgan 8 Apr 2020.

APPENDIX I - List of records that were deemed NOT PROVEN

Many of these records were not accepted because WBRC/BBRC were not convinced, on the evidence before them, that the identification was fully established. Only in a very few cases were the Panel satisfied that a mistake had been made.

Species	County	Site	Date
Alpine Swift	Pembroke	Nolton Haven	18 Apr 2021
Black Kite	Anglesey	Aberffrwd	24 Apr 2021
Rough-legged Buzzard	Anglesey	Holyhead	18 May 2021
Ring-billed Gull 1/2CY	Pembroke	Llys y fran	10 Dec 2021
Collared Pratincole	Anglesey	Cors Ddyga	19 Apr 2021
Blyth's Reed Warbler	Caernarfon	Bardsey	5 Sept 2021
Barred Warbler	Caernarfon	Bardsey	2 Sept 2021
Common Redpoll 1	Denbigh	Old Lime Kilns	8 Mar 2021
Serin 2 females	Pembroke	Marloes	29 Nov 2021

APPENDIX II - List of records that are still in BBRC circulation

Subalpine Warbler sp.	Pembroke	Skomer	30 May 2021
Isabelline Wheatear	Anglesey	Hen Borth, Carmel Head	30 Aug 2020